

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 5, 7-14, 19 and 25 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 11, 19 and 25 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 11-14 and 25 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot. Claims 5, 7, 10 and 19 are amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejections

In paragraph four (4) of the Office Action, claims 5, 9, 11, 12, 19 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,162 to Kozuka et al. ("Kozuka").

In paragraph seven (7) of the Office Action, claims 5, 7-14, 19 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,555,294 to Abe ("Abe") in view of Kozuka.

As indicated above, independent claims 5 and 19 have been amended for further clarification. The feature of the claimed invention as amended is to set a communication scheme in which a user determines both whether or not to require communication utilizing a plurality of communication channels of a communication partner in a sending communication and whether or not to grant a request for communication utilizing the plurality of communication channels from a communication partner in a receiving communication, independently, and to control the

number of communication channels in the sending communication and the receiving communication separately in accordance with the communication scheme.

Kozuka discloses registering the number of communication channels corresponding to a transmission rate of communication data for each communication partner. Abe discloses limiting availability for use of communication channels for priority transmission, priority reception and telephonic communication when a special purpose mode is set.

However, none of Kozuka and Abe, either taken alone or in combination, teaches registering the number of communication channels in sending and receiving communications, independently, as specifically recited in claims 5 and 19 as amended.

Accordingly, each of claims 5 and 19 as amended is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Kozuka and Abe for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5 and 19 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of all of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.